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Tax measures helping seniors and disabled move to full Senate for consideration

LANSING – The Senate Finance Committee today approved two tax measures providing assistance to seniors, veterans and disabled residents, and sent them to the full Senate for consideration, said state Sen. Nancy Cassis, committee chair.

House Bill 4188 expands the income threshold for people who qualify to defer the due date of their summer taxes until Feb. 15 of the following year. Currently at \$25,000, the bill increases the allowable gross household income to \$35,000 in 2005.

Senate Bill 348, sponsored by Cassis, increases the threshold to \$37,500 in 2006 and \$40,000 in 2007.

An eligible person must meet one of the following criteria: be 62 years of age or older; paraplegic or quadriplegic; an eligible serviceperson; veteran; widow or widower; blind; or someone who is totally and permanently disabled.

“The governor’s acceleration of county property tax collection to the summer gave many people disproportionately high tax bills compared to the past,” said Cassis, R-Novi. “This has put a considerable amount of financial pressure on many residents, particularly the elderly and disabled. By raising the income threshold for deferment, eligible individuals will be better able to balance living expenses against tax obligations.”

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